(b) if so, the names of such channels;

(c) the reasons stated by Bhutan therefor; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Cable operators of Bhutan had taken off the air following foreign/Indian channels in Bhutan from April 1, 2005:

* FTV
* Ten Sports
* All regional Indian channels like SUN TV, Asianet, ETV Bangla
* News channels like Aaj Tak, Zee News.

There was no formal directive from the Government and the above decision was taken by the cable operators themselves, following a series of articles which appeared in the media in Bhutan.

(c) As per these newspapers articles, the widespread feeling in Bhutan was that some channels were culturally degrading and undermining Bhutanese cultural values, besides distracting students from their studies.

(d) Indian Embassy in Bhutan has taken up the matter with the Government authorities both formally and informally, and most of the regional and news channels have since been restored.

Telecast of obscene and defamatory programmes by Cable TV

50. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in spite of the provisions of the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2002 and the rules made thereunder, some of the cable operators are telecasting news and other features which are obscene, defamatory and are likely to create disaffection among the people;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from the media urging for taking action against such operators in Karnataka; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to curb such undesirable practices?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Programmes of all TV channels transmitted/retransmitted through the Cable Network are required to adhere to Programme and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder.

Programme Code, *inter alia,* prohibits telecasting of programmes which contain anything obscene or defamatory. The Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee to look into violations of Programme and Advertising Codes. A complaint has been received from Aushadhiya Varthe on illegal telecasting of news titled C.B.S. News from Gangawathi city in Koppal district of Karnataka. Appropriate action will be taken on the complaint in consultation with the Inter-Ministerial Committee.

Publication of foreign newspapers and periodicals

51. SHRI MURLI DEORA:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to permit foreign investment by NRI/ PIOs, overseas corporate bodies and portfolio investments, besides FDI in print media subject to the ceiling of 26 per cent;

(b) whether Government also propose to allow foreign newspapers and periodicals to publish facsimile editions from India; having any access to Indian contents and advertisements;

(c) whether Government propose to amend the Press and Registration of Books Act in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?